



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/399,682	09/21/1999	KEHSING J. CHOU	A8009	2544

7590

10/09/2002

SUGHRUE MION ZINN MACKPEAK & SEAS
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 10/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/399,682

Applicant(s)

VO ET AL.

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are pending in this action. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the request for reconsideration filed on 07/24/02.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The pending claims are 1-21.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Subramaniam et al. (US 5859972) in view of Deisinger et al. (US 6321251B1).

Re claims 1, 8, and 15, Subramaniam discloses a method of searching for data in one or more heterogeneous data sources within a computer system, the method comprising the step of: receiving a request for data at a federated data source, (col. 3, lines 65-col. 4, lines 26 and col. 8, lines 15-43); and from the federated data source, retrieving data from: one or more terminal data repositories, (col. 4, lines 3-26).

Subramaniam does not clearly teach "one or more search gateway data sources."

Deisinger teaches one or more search gateway data sources, (Col. 3, lines 56-Col. 4, lines 46 and see abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Subramaniam by including one or more search gateway data sources, as taught by Deisinger, WebTx extension allows the interception of a request and pass it to a gateway, (Col. 5, lines 2-10) to enhance an interface so that the user can passes dynamically gather information over the network, (Col. 1, lines 16-21).

Re claims 2, 9, and 16, Subramaniam further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein each search gateway data source searches for data in one or more other data source, (col. 3, lines 65-col. 4, lines 51).

Re claims 3, 10, and 17, Subramaniam further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the federated data source, each terminal data repository, and each search gateway data source is a data object, (col. 3, lines 65-col. 4, lines 51).

Re claims 6, 13, and 20, Subramaniam further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein retrieving data from one or more search gateway data sources comprises

submitting a search gateway query from the federated data source to each search gateway data source, (col. 3, lines 65-col. 4, lines 51).

Re claims 7, 14, and 21, Subramaniam further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein each terminal data repository and each search gateway data source may be queried for data directly, (col. 3, lines 65-col. 4, lines 51).

5. Claims 4-5, 11-12, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Subramaniam et al. (US 5859972) in view of Sarkar (US 6012067).

Re claims 4, 11, and 18, Subramaniam fails to disclose wherein each data object is based on a class that inherits the properties of a base data source class.

Sarkar teaches wherein each data object is based on a class that inherits the properties of a base data source class, (col. 8, lines 5-68). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Subramaniam by including wherein each data object is based on a class that inherits the properties of a base data source class, as taught by Sarkar, so the advancement of internet and world wide web, a large number of different types of objects (text, file, audio, video, image as well as relational data) are being created everyday. One can look at internet as a huge database storing different types of data, (col. 1, lines 8-21)

Re claims 5, 12, and 19, Subramaniam fails to disclose wherein each data object is manipulated via methods of the class on which the data object is based.

Art Unit: 2172

Sarkar teaches disclose wherein each data object is manipulated via methods of the class on which the data object is based, (col. 8, lines 5-68). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Subramaniam by including wherein each data object is based on a class that inherits the properties of a base data source class, as taught by Sarkar, so the advancement of internet and world wide web, a large number of different types of objects (text, file, audio, video, image as well as relational data) are being created everyday. One can look at internet as a huge database storing different types of data, (col. 1, lines 8-21)

Art Unit: 2172

Contact Information

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5:00PM.

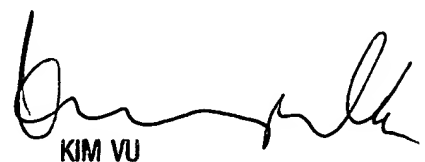
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

TV:tv

10/03/02



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100